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HOUSE BILL 505

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

Al Park

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; INCREASING THE NUMBER OF UNITS IN  
MATHEMATICS NEEDED FOR GRADUATION; RECONCILING MULTIPLE  
AMENDMENTS TO THE SAME SECTION OF LAW IN LAWS 2005.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,  
Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended by Laws 2005, Chapter 314,  
Section 1 and by Laws 2005, Chapter 315, Section 10) is amended  
to read:

"22-13-1.1. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.--

A. At the end of grades eight through eleven, each  
student shall prepare an interim next-step plan that sets forth  
the coursework for the grades remaining until high school  
graduation. Each year's plan shall explain any differences  
from previous interim next-step plans, shall be filed with the

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1 principal of the student's high school and shall be signed by  
2 the student, the student's parent and the student's guidance  
3 counselor or other school official charged with coursework  
4 planning for the student.

5 B. Each student must complete a final next-step  
6 plan during the senior year and prior to graduation. The plan  
7 shall be filed with the principal of the student's high school  
8 and shall be signed by the student, the student's parent and  
9 the student's guidance counselor or other school official  
10 charged with coursework planning for the student.

11 C. An individualized education program that meets  
12 the requirements of Subsections A and B of this section and  
13 that meets all applicable transition and procedural  
14 requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities  
15 Education Act for a student with a disability shall satisfy the  
16 next-step plan requirements of this section for that student.

17 D. A local school board shall ensure that each high  
18 school student has the opportunity to develop a next-step plan  
19 and is reasonably informed about:

- 20 (1) curricular and course options;  
21 (2) opportunities available that lead to  
22 different post-high-school options; and  
23 (3) alternative opportunities available if the  
24 student does not finish a planned curriculum.

25 E. The secretary shall:

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1 (1) establish specific accountability  
2 standards for administrators, counselors, teachers and school  
3 district staff to ensure that every student has the opportunity  
4 to develop a next-step plan;

5 (2) promulgate rules for accredited private  
6 schools in order to ensure substantial compliance with the  
7 provisions of this section;

8 (3) monitor compliance with the requirements  
9 of this section; and

10 (4) compile such information as is necessary  
11 to evaluate the success of next-step plans and report annually,  
12 by December 15, to the legislative education study committee  
13 and the governor.

14 F. Successful completion of a minimum of twenty-  
15 three units aligned to the state academic content and  
16 performance standards shall be required for graduation. These  
17 units shall be as follows:

18 (1) four units in English, with major emphasis  
19 on grammar and literature;

20 (2) three units in mathematics, at least one  
21 of which is equivalent to the algebra 1 level or higher;  
22 provided, however, that with students entering the ninth grade  
23 beginning in the 2007-2008 school year, four units in  
24 mathematics, at least two of which are equivalent to the  
25 algebra 1 level or higher;

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1 (3) two units in science, one of which shall  
2 have a laboratory component; provided, however, that with  
3 students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006  
4 school year, three units in science shall be required, one of  
5 which shall have a laboratory component;

6 (4) three units in social science, which shall  
7 include United States history and geography, world history and  
8 geography and government and economics;

9 (5) one unit in physical education;

10 (6) one unit in communication skills or  
11 business education, with a major emphasis on writing and  
12 speaking and that may include a language other than English;

13 (7) one-half unit in New Mexico history for  
14 students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006  
15 school year; and

16 (8) elective units that meet department  
17 content and performance standards as follows:

18 (a) nine elective units [~~and~~] for  
19 students other than those in Subparagraphs (b) and (c) of this  
20 paragraph;

21 (b) seven and one-half elective units  
22 for students entering the ninth grade in the 2005-2006 school  
23 year [~~that meet department content and performance standards~~];  
24 and

25 (c) six and one-half elective units for

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1 students entering the ninth grade in the 2007-2008 school year.

2 G. Student service learning shall be offered as an  
3 elective.

4 [G.] H. The department shall establish a procedure  
5 for students to be awarded credit through completion of  
6 specified career technical education courses for certain  
7 graduation requirements.

8 [H.] I. Final examinations shall be administered to  
9 all students in all classes offered for credit.

10 [I.] J. A student [~~shall not receive a high school~~  
11 ~~diploma~~] who has not passed a state graduation examination in  
12 the subject areas of reading, English, mathematics, writing,  
13 science and social science shall not receive a high school  
14 diploma. The state graduation examination on social science  
15 shall include a section on the constitution of the United  
16 States and the constitution of New Mexico. If a student exits  
17 from the school system at the end of grade twelve without  
18 having passed a state graduation examination, the student shall  
19 receive an appropriate state certificate indicating the number  
20 of credits earned and the grade completed. If within five  
21 years after a student exits from the school system the student  
22 takes and passes the state graduation examination, the student  
23 may receive a high school diploma.

24 [J.] K. As used in this section:

25 (1) "final next-step plan" means a next-step

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1 plan that shows that the student has committed or intends to  
2 commit in the near future to a four-year college or university,  
3 a two-year college, a trade or vocational program, an  
4 internship or apprenticeship, military service or a job;

5 (2) "interim next-step plan" means an annual  
6 next-step plan in which the student specifies post-high-school  
7 goals and sets forth the coursework that will allow the student  
8 to achieve those goals; and

9 (3) "next-step plan" means an annual personal  
10 written plan of studies developed by a student in a public  
11 school or other state-supported school or institution in  
12 consultation with the student's parent and school counselor or  
13 other school official charged with coursework planning for the  
14 student.

15 [~~K-~~] L. The secretary may establish a policy to  
16 provide for administrative interpretations to clarify  
17 curricular and testing provisions of the Public School Code."